



Issue 4

FLEET MASTER CHIEF JOHN MINYARD

May 2010

Greetings Shipmates! There is no overarching theme to this issue of Fleet's Quarters, but I did want to talk about a few recent and upcoming events that are of interest.

As you all know, the Pacific theater is a huge area of responsibility, and it offers some of the finest duty locations available anywhere in the fleet. I recently completed a trip to Naval Base Guam, and I want to tell you what a great time I had and what a pleasure it was meeting with the hard charging Sailors stationed there. If you've never been to Guam before, or it's been several years since you last visited, you're in for a surprise. In addition to being a beautiful location with plenty of cultural and tourist attractions, Guam has a long military history and remains strategically important to this day. There are a lot of exciting new things happening in Guam and if you're looking for one of the most challenging duty assignments in the Pacific, then you need look no further. Whether you're from the aviation, expeditionary, surface, submarine or Seabee community, Guam has a spot for you.

Since I mentioned Guam's history, it's only appropriate that my next topic be a shout-out for all Asian/Pacific Americans serving in our Navy. May was officially designated in 1992 as Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. The timing of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month coincides with the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants on 7 May 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on 10 May 1869, constructed largely by Chinese immigrant workers. Our celebration encompasses more than Americans of Japanese and Chinese descent; it includes those of Far East or Southeast Asia, Indian, and the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia as well. With this year's theme of "Diverse Leadership for a Diverse Workforce," we celebrate the wealth of ideas, traditions and commitment that those of Asian and Pacific Island heritage bring to our Navy.

Regardless of cultural or ethnic background, each and every one of us - active duty, reserve or civilian, contributes to the greatness

of our country and is a valuable member of the Navy team. The upcoming months, often referred to as the Critical Days of Summer, are often the most costly to us in terms of injuries and deaths to members of our Navy family. Every one wants to go out and take advantage of the beautiful weather and squeeze as much fun into those few months as they can, often without thinking ahead or taking the proper precautions. I say go out and have fun, but always take your safety and the safety of those with you into consideration. Whether you are planning a road trip, going on a hiking trip, motor boating, sailing or exploring the back country on a dirt bike; Be Safe! Check your equipment before using it, make sure you have (and use) the proper safety gear, stay hydrated and protected from the sun, and most importantly use your common sense. Also remember that your actions, good and bad, reflect upon the Navy and your command. The public's opinion of the Navy here in the U.S. and in the foreign ports we visit is based upon our actions, so let's show them a little Navy Pride.

The last item I've got for this month is an update on something I mentioned in the first issue of Fleet's Quarters, our new U.S. Pacific Fleet website at <http://www.cpf.navy.mil>. The new design is scheduled to launch later this month, make sure you check out the Fleet's Corner section for important information on Pacific Fleet issues. Fleet's Corner will also have tools for submitting questions and ideas about topics that impact our Sailors, and don't forget to check out my frequent posts on the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/USPacificFleet>.

Until next time; take care and Thanks for All You Do!

Very Respectfully,

Fleet Minyard

For the Record

Physical Readiness

NAVADMIN 131/10 released in April rescinds the authority of commanding officers to sign body composition waivers for the Physical Health Assessment portion of the semi-annual PRT. Previously COs could waive Body Composition Assessment (BCA) up to the maximum allowed by DOD, as long as the Sailors scored an overall "Outstanding" or "Excellent".

This change goes into effect July 1, but it will not affect participants in the Spring 2010 PFA Cycle or previous cycles. After July 1, any Sailor who exceeds Navy BCA criteria will be entered into PRIMIS as a failure. Our body types all differ and for some people it is a struggle to meet standards, but it's time to get serious about getting into shape.

Zero Tolerance

The Navy's position on Drug Abuse and the possession of certain substances was updated in March when NAVADMIN 108/10 hit the streets. In addition to

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For the Record cont.

reemphasizing the Navy position of Zero Tolerance on drug abuse, 180/10 provided specific guidance on possession of substances such as SPICE and other synthetic and designer drugs.

This NAVADMIN constitutes a lawful General Order from the Chief of Naval Operations and is applicable to all uniformed personnel in the United States Navy. As such, it is incumbent upon each and every Sailor to familiarize themselves with these rules and adhere to them at all times. The use of such substances is inconsistent with Navy Ethos and Core Values and has already resulted in the early separation of more than 300 Sailors this fiscal year.

PTS Changes

NAVADMIN 128/10 announced policy and procedure change to the PTS program to ensure the Navy's future force requirements are filled with the best qualified Sailors available. Although the PTS program remains relatively unchanged since being implemented in 2003, a few of the new updates include canceling the requirement for Sailors to sign a Page 13 "Commitment of Intent to Remain on Active Duty." Also, PTS will be integrated with the Fleet Ride program beginning in 2011. This will help streamline PTS applications by helping to match a Sailor's qualification to ratings open for conversion, and improving the processes for quota approval and orders negotiation.

You can find the full version of these NAVADMINs at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Messages/>.

Pacific History / Heritage

May 1, 1898 – During the Spanish-American War, Commodore George Dewey commanded a squadron of American ships during the Battle of Manila Bay. After taking fire for more than 30 minutes while maneuvering into position, Dewey ordered the commanding officer of his flagship Olympia to return fire by saying, "You may fire when you are ready Gridley." Two days later, U.S. Marines stormed the beaches at Cavite, Philippines and raised the American flag.

May 4, 1942 – Battle of Coral Sea begins. This is the first carrier vs. carrier battle, with the American carriers Yorktown and Lexington facing off against the Japanese carriers Shōkaku and Zuikaku, and the light carrier Shōhō.

May 8, 1911 – Navy ordered its first airplane, Curtiss A-1, Birthday of Naval Aviation.

For more News and Information about U.S. Pacific Fleet visit:

<http://www.cpf.navy.mil>

<http://twitter.com/PacificFleet>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/compacflt/>

<http://www.facebook.com/USPacificFleet>

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OS1(SW) Samira McBride
Sea Sailor of the Year



LN1(SW/AW) Jessica Byard
Shore Sailor of the Year



PEARL HARBOR (April 20, 2010) Sailor of the Year Finalists tour the USS Arizona Memorial. From left to right: ABF1(AW/SW) Kemp Dreher, CS1(SW/AW) Shenan Pacheco, ND1(DSW/SW) Christopher Timothy, HM1(FMF/AW/SW/NAC) Lawrence Comdeco, LN1(SW/AW) Jessica Byard, ISI(SW/AW) Shauntel Renton, OS1(SW) Samira McBride, ND1(DSW/SW) James Bogenhagen.



PEARL HARBOR (April 20, 2010) Sailor of the Year Finalists and their families tour the USS MISSOURI Memorial. From left to right: CS1 and Mrs. Shenan Pacheco, ND1 and Mrs. Christopher Timothy, ISI Shauntel Renton, OS1 Samira McBride, LN1 Jessica Byard and Mr. Shrrrel Byard, HM1 and Mrs. Lawrence Comdeco, ABF1 Kemp Dreher, ND1 and Mrs. James Bogenhagen.

